

Monday, May 31, 2021

Editor
Miami Herald
Miami, FL

In the editorial “Stop pushing for elections in Haiti, President Biden. They will only make things worse,” the Herald’s Editorial Board advances a troubling, anti-democratic theory that elections are not necessary in Haiti. In the absence of a vote, how does the Editorial Board believe the Haitian people should exercise their constitutional right to elect their own leaders?

The world has moved on from the colonial days when the big powers could change and control another nation’s government at will.

Haiti confronts complex, complicated issues of nation-state building and persistent socio-economic challenges. Observers of Haiti understand that the current manifestation of longstanding political conflict runs deeper than policy choices made by the current head of state, who has been in power for just 4 years and 4 months.

Haiti’s government supports the extension of TPS for Haitian citizens in the U.S., President Moïse shares the Biden administration’s commitment to giving the people of Haiti a voice, protection of their freedoms, and a stronger democracy. The constitutional changes being proposed will offer Haitians in the diaspora an opportunity to vote, run for elected office in Haiti, and to remake our government into a functional, accountable system of democracy.

President Moïse will leave office when his term expires on February 7, 2022. For all the years of his presidency, the political dynamics and weak democratic institutions in Haiti have made it impossible for his government to advance development priorities. A constitutional referendum and national elections are needed to set Haiti on a better path under the next elected President. Our nation deserves opportunity and progress, and it demands democracy.

Bocchit Edmond
Ambassador

DISSEMINATED BY MERCURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LLC, A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT, ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI. MORE INFORMATION IS ON FILE WITH THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC